



City Of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

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Mayor, residents and City Attorney kick off Home Again Abandoned homes in Franklinton first on list to be demolished Dedication of first new home in Franklinton in 40 years

(Columbus) The City is stepping up to tackle vacant and abandoned houses through HOME AGAIN, a promise made by Mayor Michael B. Coleman during his 2006 State of the City Address, along with the commitment of \$25 million over six years to buy, fix up or tear down the first 1,000 blighted properties. The program started today, as residents joined Mayor Coleman, City Attorney Rick Pfeiffer and housing advocates to demolish 258 S. Yale Avenue in Franklinton. This is the first of eight properties currently owned by the City that cannot be saved. The City plans to spend a total of \$575,000 this year to demolish 72 properties.

"Home Again is a \$25 million priority and we are starting today to remove these blighted homes from our neighborhoods," said Mayor Coleman. "For too long we have nibbled around the edges in this fight, as vacant homes got worse, attracting crime and vandalism, and hurting the quality of life for responsible families who live nearby."

The City Attorney's Office, code enforcement and the Division of Police have partnered to expedite the process of declaring a property a public nuisance that would reduce the foreclosure process by 3 to 6 months. Police officers also have the ability to arrest anyone who is found on the property that has been declared a nuisance. These measures are designed to reduce crimes that can take place in vacant houses.

"It is encouraging to see that we have concerns for all of our neighborhoods," said the City Attorney. "From the neighborhoods to the courts, we will be there with citizen to help address this important issue."

The Home Again Program has a five point plan of action: prevention, enforcement, acquisition, rehabilitation, and demolition. Home Again engages partners like the Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County to manage the acquisition of properties. Legislation will be forwarded June 19 to City Council for the transfer of \$300,000 to the Trust, to begin purchasing and rehabbing properties.

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"This is the largest commitment the City has ever made to revitalizing neighborhoods and creating homeownership opportunities. When you transform boarded-up houses to homes that working families can afford to own, the benefits are compelling. Houses become homes again, streets get safer, and neighborhoods have restored pride. That's an excellent value proposition for the funds being committed by the Mayor and Council," said Mark Milligan, president of Housing Trust Columbus.

It has been more than 40 years since the Franklinton neighborhood has seen significant new housing construction, but that too is changing, as Mayor Coleman, officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus (HFHGC) and the Columbus Board of REALTORS® kicked off National Homeownership Month by dedicating a new home at 49 Schultz Ave.

"We are thankful that the city is tearing down houses that are beyond rehabilitation. The four houses in Franklinton are on the top of the list to be demolished. We have been working hard to get the houses rehabbed and now that the floodwall is finished, we're looking forward to a bright future," said Carol Stewart, Chair of the Franklinton Area Commission.

The City requested foreclosure on the 258 South Yale Avenue property in 2003, and the City obtained title to it in August, 2004, placing it in the land bank. In the four years prior to the City taking ownership, the property was vacant and caught fire on two occasions. After completion of the demolition on Yale Avenue, the City will tear down the following vacant properties:

391 S. Brehl Avenue
446 S. Central Avenue
273 S. Grubb Street
706 Lock Avenue
1594 Tiffin Street
653 Stambaugh Avenue
1405 E. 23rd

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Scheduled Home Again Demolitions



City of Columbus
Michael B. Coleman, Mayor

Department of Development
Mark Barbash, Director

- 1 268 S. Yale
- 2 391 S. Brehl
- 3 446 S. Central
- 4 273 S. Grubb